

Applicants : Chad D. Quist, Francis O'Brien and Niall R. Lynam  
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REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's review of the specification, claims, and drawings. In light of the above amendment and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. The amendments and remarks presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-32, 34-66, and 68-85 are pending in the application. Claims 33 and 67 have been cancelled herein.

Claim Rejections Under U.S. 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3-8, 15-20, 28-34, 41-48, 51, 53, 55, 58, 59, 61-67, and 73-85 under U.S. 35 USC §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,566,224 to ul Azam et al. (ul Azam) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,332,024 to Inoue et al. (Inoue).

Applicants respectfully traverse. Notwithstanding, Applicants have canceled Claims 33 and 67 and amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 67, which now calls for:

An interactive vehicular mirror system comprising:  
an interior rearview mirror assembly having a  
mirror casing and a reflective element, said mirror assembly being  
adapted to mount at an interior portion of the vehicle, and said  
reflective element having a rearward field of view when said  
interior mirror assembly is mounted in a vehicle;  
a plurality of user actuatable selector elements, said  
user actuatable selector elements comprising at least a first touch  
sensitive element and a second touch sensitive element;  
a first display element and a second display element  
disposed to the rear of said reflective element of said interior

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rearview mirror assembly and viewable to an occupant of the vehicle through said reflective element;

said first display element and said second display element respectively generating a first display and a second display;

said first display being generated in response to said first touch sensitive element being actuated by a user and said second display being generated in response to said second touch sensitive element being actuated by a user;

said first display element and said first touch sensitive element being at least one of adjacent and co-located such that a cognitive relationship is established by actuation of said first touch sensitive element by a user and said generation of said first display;

said second display element and said second touch sensitive element being at least one of adjacent and co-located such that a cognitive relationship is established by actuation of said second touch sensitive element by a user and said generation of said second display; and

wherein said first touch sensitive element and said second touch sensitive element are provided at one of (a) a bezel portion of said mirror casing and (b) at said reflective element.

Applicants respectfully urge that neither ul Azam nor Inoue discloses or suggests the claimed combination. For example, neither ul Azam nor Inoue discloses or suggests a mirror system with an interior rearview mirror assembly, a first user actuatable selector element, a second user actuatable element, a first display element, and a second display element, with the display elements disposed to the rear of the reflective element and the first display element displaying a display in response to the first touch sensitive member being actuated by a user and the second display element displaying a second display in response to the second touch sensitive element.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge it would not be obvious to modify ul Azam in view of Inoue to meet the claimed combination for at least the reason that Inoue is non-analogous art. Inoue is directed to a portable terminal that includes an LCD display screen and a plurality of function keys. Inoue is not directed to an interior rearview mirror

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assembly—nor is it directed to a display at a reflective element. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that the Inoue reference is not within the field of endeavor of the present invention—which is vehicular rearview mirror assemblies.

Notwithstanding, Inoue does not disclose or suggest a display element that displays a display at a reflective element of an interior rearview mirror assembly. In contrast, Inoue is directed to a hand held device with an LCD display screen. The Examiner states “[i]t would have been obvious to have modified ul Azam et al. with the teaching of Inoue, so as the number of required entry keys could be reduced . . . and the user would be more quickly to find the function of a selector element.” Applicants respectfully note that ul Azam discloses only a single touch sensitive point on the reflector for scrolling through pre-stored phone numbers that are displayed in display area (208). Ul Azam also describes alternately that these numbers may be scrolled using a separate button or buttons located on the lower side or bottom left-face surface of the rear housing. Therefore, Applicants are confused as to the logic used by the Examiner stating that “it would be obvious to modify ul Azam et al. in view of Inoue et al. to add a second display element and a second touch sensitive element in order to reduce the number of keys” given that ul Azam teaches to use a single key to scroll through a single adjacent display. The number of “keys” of ul Azam could therefore not be reduced any further.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the Examiner must establish that ul Azam and Inoue teach all of the claims limitations and, furthermore, that there is a motivation to modify ul Azam et al. in view of Inoue to meet the claimed combination. Applicants respectfully urge that even when combined the references do not teach all the claimed limitations and that the Examiner has failed to provide a logical basis to

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combine the references in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 1, 3-8, 15-20, and 65-85 are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Inoue.

With respect to Claim 28, Claim 28 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 33 as follows:

An interactive vehicular mirror system comprising:  
an interior rearview mirror assembly having a mirror casing and a reflective element, said mirror assembly being adapted to mount at an interior portion of the vehicle, and said reflective element having a rearward field of view when said interior mirror assembly is mounted in a vehicle;  
a plurality of display elements at said reflective element, said plurality of display elements comprising a first display element and a second display element;  
a respective plurality of touch sensitive elements at said reflective element associated with said plurality of display elements, said plurality of touch sensitive elements comprising a first touch sensitive element and a second touch sensitive element;  
said first and second display elements provided at said interior mirror assembly;  
said first touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent said first display element, and said second touch sensitive element being at least one of co-located and adjacent said second display element such that a cognitive relationship is established between actuation of said touch sensitive elements and the generation of displays by said display elements; and  
a first display being generated by said first display element associated with said first touch sensitive element at least when said first touch sensitive element is actuated, and a second display being generated by said second display element associated with said second touch sensitive element at least when said second touch sensitive element is actuated wherein at least one of said display elements comprises a re-configurable display element whereby said re-configurable display element may be associated with more than one function.

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Applicants respectfully urge that neither ul Azam nor Inoue discloses or suggests the claimed combination. For example, neither ul Azam nor Inoue discloses or suggests an interior rearview mirror assembly with a first display element, a second display element, a first touch sensitive element, and a second touch sensitive element, with the first and second touch sensitive elements at least one of co-located and adjacent the first and second display elements, respectively, such that a cognitive relationship is established between actuation of the touch sensitive elements and the generation of displays by the display elements.

As noted above, ul Azam is directed to an RF communication device that comprises a rearview mirror phone with a mirrored surface (209) and a display which when powered displays information on a very small portion, such as display area portion (208). A left hand portion of the display area (208) displays numerals that may refer to a storage location with an adjacent portion of the display displaying a series of numbers, which may refer to a phone number stored at that storage location. However, ul Azam does not disclose or suggest the use of two display elements co-located or adjacent to respective touch sensitive elements such that a cognitive relationship is established between activation of the touch sensitive elements and the generation of displays by the display elements where each display element displays a display when its respective touch sensitive element is actuated.

Additionally, neither ul Azam nor Inoue discloses or suggests the further combination of an interior rearview mirror assembly as noted above with at least one of the display elements comprising a re-configurable display element whereby the re-configurable display element may be associated with more than one function.

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Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge it would not be obvious to modify ul Azam to meet the claimed combination. Ul Azam expressly states that the display area is small so that the effectiveness of the rearview mirror as a means for permitting the user to view the area behind the vehicle is not hampered. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge it would not be obvious to add an additional touch sensitive element at the reflective element of ul Azam. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that it would not be obvious to modify ul Azam in view of Inoue to meet the claimed combination.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 28 and its dependent claims, namely Claims 29-32 and 34-52, are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Inoue or in combination with any other reference of record.

With respect to Claim 53, Claim 53 has been amended to clarify Applicants' invention and now calls for:

An interactive vehicular mirror system comprising:  
an interior mirror assembly having a mirror casing and a reflective element, said interior mirror assembly being adapted to mount at an interior portion of a vehicle, said reflective element having a rearward field of view when said interior rearview mirror assembly is mounted to the vehicle and a plurality of user actuatable selector elements;  
a display element; and  
at least one of said selector elements activating said display element to display at least one display associated with a function of said at least one selector element and wherein actuation of another selector element changes the display displayed by said display element to another display associated with a function of said another selector element.

Applicants respectfully urge that neither ul Azam nor Inoue discloses or suggests the claimed combination. For example, neither ul Azam nor Inoue discloses or suggests an interior mirror assembly with a plurality of user actuatable selector elements and

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a display element, with at least one of the selector elements activating the display element to display at least one display associated with a function of the at least one selector element and wherein actuation of another selector element changes the display displayed by the display element to another display associated with a function of the another selector element.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 53 is patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Inoue alone or in combination with any other reference of record. Nor would it be obvious to modify ul Azam to meet the claimed combination.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 53 and its dependent claims, namely Claims 54-64, are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Inoue alone or in combination with any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claims 2, 7, 21, 54, 56, and 57, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam et al. in view of Inoue et al. and, further, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,124,886 to DeLine et al.

With respect to Claims 2, 7, and 21, Claims 2, 7, and 21 depend from amended Claim 1 and thus incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 1. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge that DeLine does not cure the deficiencies of either ul Azam or Inoue.

With respect to Claims 54, 56, and 57, Claims 54, 56, and 57 depend from amended Claim 53 and thus incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 53. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge the DeLine does not cure the deficiencies of either ul Azam or Inoue. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 54, 56, and 57 are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Inoue or DeLine or any other reference of record.

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The Examiner rejects Claims 9-14, 22-25, 27, 35-40, 60, and 69-72 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam et al. in view of Inoue et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,707,570 to Ide et al.

Claims 9-14, 22-25, 27, and 69-72 depend from amended Claim 1 and thus incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 1. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge that Ide does not cure the deficiencies of either ul Azam or Inoue. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 9-14, 22-25, 27, and 69-72 are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Inoue or Ide or any other reference of record.

With respect to Claims 35 and 40 depend from amended Claim 28 and, therefore, incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 28. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge that Ide does not cure the deficiencies of either ul Azam or Inoue. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 35 and 40 are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Inoue or Ide or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claims 26 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam in view of Inoue, Ide, and U.S. Patent No. 5,416,313 to Larson.

Claim 26 depends from amended Claim 1 and thus incorporates the same limitations as amended Claim 1. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge that Larson does not cure the deficiencies of ul Azam or Inoue or Ide. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 26 is patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Inoue, Ide, or Larson or any other reference of record.

With respect to Claim 52, Claim 52 depends from Claim 28 and, therefore, incorporates the same limitations as Claim 28. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge that Larson does not cure the deficiencies of ul Azam or Inoue or Ide. Therefore, Applicants

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respectfully urge that Claim 52 is patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Inoue, Ide, or Larson or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claims 49-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam in view of Inoue and U.S. Patent No. 4,202,607 to Washizuka et al.

With respect to Claims 49 and 50, Claims 49 and 50 depend from amended Claim 53 and thus incorporate the same limitations as amended Claim 53. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge that Washizuka do not cure the deficiencies of Ide, ul Azam, or Inoue. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 49 and 50 are patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Inoue, Ide, or Washizuka or any other reference of record.

The Examiner rejects Claim 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over ul Azam in view of Inoue and U.S. Patent No. 6,497,368 to Friend.

With respect to Claim 68, Claim 68 depends from amended Claim 1 and thus incorporates the same limitations as amended Claim 1. Applicants respectfully urge that Friend et al. do not cure the deficiencies of ul Azam or Inoue. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 68 is patentably distinguishable over ul Azam in view of Inoue, Ide, or Friend or any other reference of record.

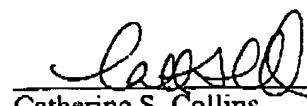
In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and Notice of Allowance of all claims, namely Claims 1-32, 34-66, and 68-85.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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